

SUPPORT FOR AMENDMENT

The specification and claims have been amended to correct, and thereby accurately reflect, the water-soluble polymer particle size. In this regard, Applicants have re-analyzed Experiments contained within the original specification, and determined that the correct particle size for the invention water-soluble polymer is properly 1-10 μm . This change is supported by Applicants' own experiments, and thus no new matter is entered. See the attached Declaration of Dr. Volker Braig, which fully supports the amendment correcting the specification and claims, and demonstrates the inherent nature of the correction. No new matter has been entered.

REMARKS

The rejection of Claims 1-4 over Sato is traversed. The rejection critically relies upon the assumption, set out at page 4 of the Official Action, that the claimed particle size would be met by the reference inherently. However, this is not the case.

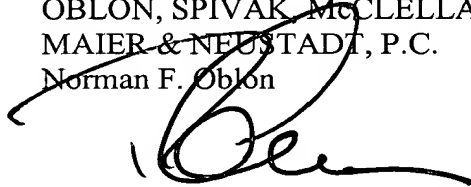
Applicants have repeated the Sato disclosure and determined that the Sato particle size is in fact from 20-100 μm at the several stages of processing disclosed in the reference. In this regard, see the second Declaration of Dr. Braig, attached. Because particle size is an important factor in polymer dispersions having an effect on the stability of such a dispersion,¹ it is clear that the aqueous solution/dispersion disclosed in Sato is distinctly different from that claimed herein.

Accordingly, and for the reasons presented above, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance. Early notification to this effect is respectfully submitted.

Finally, Applicants attach hereto a copy of the July 12, 2001, PTO 1449, as requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.
Norman F. Oblon

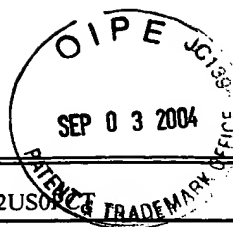


Richard L. Treanor
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 36,379

Customer Number
22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 06/04)
RLT/rac

¹ In fact, sedimentation is proportional to the square of the radius of the particles. See pages 3-4 of the second Braig Declaration.



APPLICANT

Anton NEGELE, et al.

FILING DATE

May 7, 2001

GROUP

1713

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

OTHER REFERENCES (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc.)

Examiner

Reddick, I

Date Considered

09/07/02

*Examiner: Initial if reference is considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.